



Maryland CASA Association
11th Annual Conference
**STANDING STRONG FOR
CHILDREN AND YOUTH**

Saturday, April 1, 2017 · Judicial College Education & Conference Center · Annapolis, Maryland

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST					
9:15 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	<p>Welcome <i>Ed Kilcullen, Executive Director, Maryland CASA Association</i></p>					
9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.	<p>Keynote Address <i>Chauncey Strong, MSW, LCSW</i></p>					
10:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	MORNING BREAK					
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Morning Breakout Sessions					
	The Impact of Trauma and Toxic Stress in Early Childhood	My Brother's Keeper: The Importance of Sibling Connections	An Intro to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Trafficking in Maryland	Understanding the Forensic Interview and Investigation Process in Child Abuse Cases	You're Next Case has a Child with an Intellectual / Developmental Disability ... Are You Prepared?	Preparing Youth for a Successful Young Adulthood
12:00 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.	LUNCH					
12:45 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.	Afternoon Breakout Session 1					
	CINA Law 201 – Where the Law Meets Reality	Children & Animal Abuse: What You Need to Know to Advocate Effectively	Safeguarding Foster Youth from Human Trafficking in Maryland	Creating an Environment of Acceptance and Support with LGBT-Q Youth in Foster Care	Building Authentic Youth-Adult Partnerships	Meaningful Use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment (CANS) in the Treatment of Complex Trauma
2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	AFTERNOON BREAK					
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Afternoon Breakout Session 2					
	Trauma and Addictions in the Family	One Love Foundation's Escalation Workshop: Identifying and Working with Youth in Unhealthy Relationships	Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE): Impact of Future Health & Social Outcomes	Promoting Secure Attachment in Children who have Experienced Trauma	The Youths' Perspective: Current and Former Foster Youth Panel	
4:00 p.m.	EVALUATIONS & CERTIFICATES <i>Sign out if purchased CEUs.</i>					

Session Descriptions

Morning Breakout Sessions

Session: Morning Session

Title: The Impact of Trauma and Toxic Stress in Early Childhood

Presenter: Claire Eberhardt, LGSW, Counselor & Healthy Steps Specialist and Lauren Carpenter, LCSW-C, Taghi Modarressi Center for Infant Study: Secure Starts, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry &

Description: Young children are vulnerable to the impact of trauma and toxic stress. This workshop will focus on understanding child development and the interface of trauma and toxic stress on early childhood mental health. We will discuss integrating trauma-informed care and evidence-based practices into work with young children and their families using the lens of attachment.

Session: Morning Session

Title: My Brother's Keeper: The Importance of Sibling Connections

Presenter: Chauncey Strong, MSW, LCSW

Description: Sibling connections are among the most important and longest lasting relationships we will have in life. Yet many times siblings come into care and are separated and placed in different homes. This workshop is designed to highlight the value of sibling connections and suggest strategies to successfully address sibling issues.

Session: Morning Session

Title: An Introduction to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) and Trafficking in MD

Presenter: Amelia Rubenstein, MSW, LCSW-C, Clinical Research Specialist, Child Sex Trafficking Victims Initiative, University of Maryland School of Social Work

Description: Sex trafficking of youth is an often over-looked crime and type of maltreatment. As federal and state laws increasingly ask child welfare agencies to serve trafficked and exploited youth, child serving professionals and volunteers must become knowledgeable on this issue. The presenter will ensure participants understand the basics of human trafficking including legal definitions and methods of control used by traffickers. Participants will leave better prepared to identify trafficked youth they are currently serving and understand potential challenges and barriers faced by this vulnerable group of young people.

Session: Morning Session

Title: Understanding the Forensic Interview and Investigation Process in Child Abuse Cases

Presenter: Samantha Kanekuni, LCSW-C, Forensic Interviewer, Baltimore Child Abuse Center

Description: The process of a child abuse investigation can be lengthy, confusing, and overwhelming for not only the child victim, but also families, caregivers, and other involved professionals. This training is to help those working with children understand the purpose and procedure of the forensic interview and gain an understanding of the process the child and family have been through. The training will also explain the nuances of the Child Protective Services and Law Enforcement investigations, including the prosecution of the case, and what CASA volunteers, child welfare professionals and children's attorneys can learn from the investigation and prosecution processes to assist them in advocating for child victims in CINA proceedings.

Session Descriptions

Session: Morning Session

Title: Your Next Case has a Child with an Intellectual/Developmental Disability...Are You Prepared?

Presenters: *Janelle Myers, Detective, Harford County Sheriff's Office, Child Advocacy Center & Shelly Allred, Director of Safety Programs, Pathfinders for Autism*

Description: You've been assigned to a case with a child who appears to be verbally unresponsive. Could he have a developmental disability? Through interactive activities and shared personal stories, the speakers will define autism spectrum disorder and other intellectual/developmental disabilities and offer insight into the commonly affected areas (e.g., communication and sensory). The speakers will also share strategies to improve your interactions and provide for a more effective communication.

Session: Morning Session

Title: Preparing Youth for a Successful Young Adulthood

Presenter: *April Sharp, LCSW-C, Thrive@25 Local Project Director, The Institute for Innovation and Implementation, University of Maryland, Baltimore*

Description: In this workshop, participants will learn about innovative approaches to help our transitional age youth reach the necessary benchmarks to be successful young adults. Reflecting on each participant's own struggles to reach adulthood, this interactive workshop will include real life applications for the audience to use with transitional age youth still in care.

1st Afternoon Breakout Session

Session: 1st Afternoon Session

Title: CINA LAW 201 – Where the Law Meets Reality

Presenter: *Richard Perry, Esq., CINA Attorney, Maryland Legal Aid Bureau*

Description: This workshop is always a fan favorite! The presenter will discuss where reality and practice diverge from the ideal in CINA cases, and how the audience can help the child in these instances.

Session: 1st Afternoon Session

Title: Children & Animal Abuse: What You Need to Know to Effectively Advocate

Presenter: *Lisa Lunghofer, Ph.D., Executive Director, Making Good Work, LLC*

Description: This session will focus on children's relationships with animals as both risk and protective factors. We will discuss why it's important to take childhood animal abuse seriously and its relationship to other risk factors, including abuse and neglect. Key factors to consider when assessing animal abuse and approaches to exploring a child's relationship with animals will be presented. The session concludes with a discussion of trauma-focused strategies for intervening with children who have engaged in or witnessed animal abuse. Case examples will be used throughout to illustrate key points. Participants will be encouraged to share their experiences and ask questions.

Session: 1st Afternoon Session

Session Descriptions

Title: **Safeguarding Foster Youth from Human Trafficking in Maryland**

Presenter: *Nicole Lee, Mentor Coordinator, Araminta Freedom Initiative*

Description: This workshop will focus on understanding the dynamics of human trafficking in the Maryland region, and how it directly affects youth in foster care. It will provide education for caregivers, advocates, and others by giving practical methods of prevention and intervention. The presenter in this workshop will give firsthand accounts of how the power of a positive role model through mentorship are pivotal in their journeys toward healing and empowerment. Ample time will be given for an informal Q&A with the audience where the presenter encourages people to ask the hard questions so a real and honest discussion can take place.

Session: **1st Afternoon Session**

Title: **Creating an Environment of Acceptance and Support with LGBT-Q Youth in Foster Care**

Presenter: *Kimberly Morrill, LCSW-C, Associate Vice President of TFC and Community Services, Arrow Child and Family Ministries*

Description: Moving through history to current day struggles with violence, discrimination and legislative decisions that have impacted the well-being of the LGBT-Q community, this training hopes to improve ways in which providers can ensure supportive placements and feelings of safety for our youth. Using this framework, training will be focused on the inclusive language and appropriate conversation needed to increase clinical success and confidence in developing conversation to address the needs of LGBT-Q youth with foster parents, youth in care, staff members, and co-workers.

Session: **1st Afternoon Session**

Title: **Building Authentic Youth-Adult Partnerships**

Presenter: *Christina Drushel Williams, Policy Analyst, Governor's Office for Children*

Description: Youth engagement offers the expertise and partnership of young people, helping adults fully understand what it is like to grow up in a rapidly changing world while navigating the various systems and policies impacting the lives of youth each day. This interactive session will provide strategies and best practices for creating an authentic youth-adult partnership to engage youth in the decision-making and planning process of their own lives.

Session: **1st Afternoon Session**

Title: **Meaningful Use of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment the Treatment of Complex Trauma in Child Welfare**

Presenters: *Paul Brylske, MSW, LCSW-C, Director, Therapeutic Foster Care at the Kennedy Krieger Institute & Neil Mallon, MSW, LCSW-C, CANS Implementation Project Director, The Institute for Innovation and Implementation, University of Maryland School of Social Work*

Description: Some assessment tools, although useful for diagnostic purposes, may be insufficient to support collaborative decision-making and service-planning, in that they do not assess many important contextual variables such as family functioning and child/family strengths. They also may not be readily translated into meaningful practice. Therefore, a key challenge to address is: How can we effectively utilize and translate trauma-focused and family-informed assessments into practice? This workshop have a representative panel (social worker, foster parent and other team members) share experience and lessons learned in their use of the CANS.

2nd Afternoon Breakout Session

Agenda and workshops subject to change.

Session Descriptions

Session: 2nd Afternoon Session

Title: Trauma and Addictions in the Family

Presenter: *Julia Knach, Clinical Supervisor, Family and Children's Services*

Description: Participants will gain an understanding of the origins of trauma, including childhood trauma and transgenerational trauma. Participants will gain a better understanding of the biological processes of trauma and addiction, and the similarities in brain functioning. The participants will gain an understanding of biological processes of both, as well as an understanding of the relationship between the two and the effects of trauma and addiction on the family as a whole. Participants will gain knowledge in the core issues associated with trauma and substance use disorders and treatment options for the two. Participants will get up to date statistics on the effects of trauma and addictions, and the statistics of the existence of the two together.

Session: 2nd Afternoon Session

Title: One Love Foundation's Escalation Workshop: Identifying and Working with Youth in Unhealthy Relationships

Presenter: *Jordyn Cohen, Regional Coordinator of Maryland, One Love Foundation*

Description: The Escalation Workshop is a 90-minute, film-based experience that educates about the warning signs of an abusive relationship, creating a safe zone for discussing an all-too-common problem. This workshop provides a space for adults who work or live with young people to understand what red flags they can look for in their child's life to help identify if they are in an unhealthy or abusive relationship. The film itself is a strong example of what an unhealthy/abusive relationship looks like for young people, an eye-opening experience for many adults. This workshop also talks about how to start a conversation with a young person about healthy and unhealthy relationships.

Session: 2nd Afternoon Session

Title: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE): Impact on Future Health & Social Outcomes

Presenter: *Kimberly Sauer, Legislative & Legal Coordinator, Baltimore Child Abuse Center*

Description: Sixty-five percent of adults have experienced at least one or more Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE). In 1995, CDC researchers discovered 10 common ACEs relating to child abuse, neglect and household dysfunction that have been proven to have negative emotional, mental, and physical health impacts long into adulthood. Without intervention, victims of child abuse and maltreatment are at an increased risk of mental illness, depression, and suicide, and serious health issues such as obesity, eating disorders, and early death. Participants will learn how the ACE Study findings impact adult outcomes and explore strategies for building resiliency in the face of childhood trauma.

Session: 2nd Afternoon Session

Title: Promoting Secure Attachment in Children who have Experienced Trauma

Presenter: *Lisa Dominguez, Director of Clinical Services, Center for Adoption Support and Education*

Description: This workshop helps participants understand how attachment develops and the different styles of attachment. Participants will also explore the life events/experiences that interrupt the development of organized attachment, including the neurobiological impact and how that impacts attachment. Participants will learn practical ways that they can help foster and adoptive parents promote attachment with the children they serve.

Session Descriptions

Session: 2nd Afternoon Session

Title: The Youths' Perspective: Current and Former Foster Youth Panel

Presenters: *Current and Former Foster Youth*

Description: Come and hear from a panel of current and former foster youth about their experiences in foster care and the child welfare system, their thoughts on how to improve the foster care system and how their CASA volunteers, social workers and attorneys may better advocate for foster youth.